

A complete listing of all claims in this application is set forth below.

Applicant requests that claims 1-6 and 13-14 be canceled.

Claims 1-6 (canceled).

7. (Original) A probe for bi-directional optical communication with a device external to the probe, the probe comprising:

a housing;

an optical transmitter mounted within the housing that generates a light signal having a logical polarity that is the opposite of the logical polarity of the light signal generated by an indicator light associated with an external device with which the communication probe is communicating; and

an optical receiver mounted within the housing for receiving the light signal generated by the indicator light and generating an electrical data signal from the received light signal.

8. (Original) The probe of claim 7, wherein the optical transmitter mounted within the housing is a light emitting diode (LED) and the optical receiver is a phototransistor.

9. (Original) The probe of claim 8, wherein the LED is a standard LED.

10. (Original) The probe of claim 8, wherein the LED generates an intense light pulse.

11. (Original) The probe of claim 8, wherein the phototransistor is a sensitive phototransistor.

12. (Original) The probe of claim 7 further comprising:

a coupler for securing the housing to an external device so the optical transmitter and the optical receiver are in close proximity to the external device to enable optical communication with at least one low intensity indicator light of the external device.

Claims 13-14 (canceled)

15. (Original) A method for bi-directional optical communication, the method comprising:

generating a light signal having a logical polarity that is the opposite of the logical polarity of the light signal generated by an indicator light associated with an external device; and

receiving a light signal generated by the indicator light and generating an electrical data signal from the received light signal.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the generated light of the light signal represents a logical '1' and the light of the received light signal represents a logical '0'.

17. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the generated light of the light signal represents a logical '0' and the light of the received light represents a logical '1'.

Claims 18-20 (canceled).